

Claims

1. In a data processing apparatus comprising a first input channel and a second input channel each for inputting signals, a security device for verifying a password, and means for determining whether the password input to the security device comes from the second input channel, in which the security device will verify a correct password from the first input channel, but not from the second input channel, in which the security device is configured to receive signals from the first input channel and configured not to receive signals from the second input channel.
2. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, in which the device receives signals only from the first input channel.
3. A data processing apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the device cannot receive signals from the second input channel.
4. A data processing apparatus according to any preceding claim, in which the apparatus further comprises means to determine whether the security device has verified the password and, if not, to vary operation of the apparatus.
5. A data processing apparatus according to any preceding claim, in which the first input channel comprises a first peripheral input device.
6. A data processing apparatus according to claim 5, in which the first peripheral input device comprises a keyboard and the security device is located to receive

signals from the keyboard and transmit them to a keyboard controller or to a bus.

7. A data processing apparatus according to claim 5 or
5 claim 6, in which the device is located between the keyboard controller and the keyboard bus.

8. A data processing apparatus according to any preceding
claim, in which the apparatus further comprises a control
10 unit (such as a CPU) which interrogates the security device to determine whether a correct password has been entered.

9. A data processing apparatus according to any preceding
claim, in which the device encrypts all signals it
15 receives.

10. A data processing apparatus according to claim 9, in
which a decryption tool is provided between the output of
the device and the application to which they key presses
20 comprise instructions.

11. A method of verifying which of a first input channel
and a second input channel is used in data processing
apparatus, the method comprising the steps of upon input of
25 a password to the apparatus, a security device receiving input from the first input channel not from the second input channel declining password authorisation, if the input is through the second input channel, and if the correct password is input through the first input channel
30 providing a password verification.

12. A method according to claim 11, in which the method includes the step of determining whether the security

device has verified the password and, if not, varying the operation of the apparatus.

13. A method according to claim 12, in which a control unit
5 (such as a CPU) interrogates the security device to determine whether the correct password has been entered.

14. A method according to any one of claims 11 to 13, in
10 which the method includes the step of receiving signals only from the first input channel.

15. A method according to claim 14, in which the data
15 processing apparatus includes a device for receiving signals.

16. A method according to claim 14 or claim 15, in which
the device cannot receive signals from the second input
channel.

20 17. A method according to any one of claims 11 to 16, in which the first input channel comprises a first peripheral input device.

18. A method according to claim 17, in which the first
25 peripheral input device comprises a keyboard and the security device is located to receive signals from the keyboard and transmit them to a keyboard controller or to a bus.

30 19. A method according to claim 17 or claim 18, in which the device is located between the keyboard controller and the keyboard bus.

20. A method according to any one of claims 11 to 19, in which the apparatus further comprises a control unit (such as a CPU) which interrogates the security device to determine whether a correct password has been entered.

5

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